



VINCOTTE – CERTEST PRODUCTS

OK Compost HOME : Initial acceptance tests

Doc Ref : **OK2-e** Edition : C
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Program OK 2

Home compostability of products

I. Applicable specifications:

The European standard with reference EN 13432 (September 2000), adapted to low-temperature composting.

II. Documents to be supplied :

General information to be provided

- Description of the product and all its variations
- Colours
- Reports available and/or existing certificates

For the basic materials, colourings, inks, masterbatches, ...

- Composition (%), identification of the constituents and characteristics

For finished and/or semi-finished products

- Sizes and thicknesses where appropriate
- Composition (%), identification of the components and constituents, manufacturers and characteristics

III. Classification:

None

IV. Examinations and tests: specific procedures:

A) Preliminary examinations

Study of the file and preliminary inspection of the status of the material presented.

B) General test programme

The tests are carried out according to the procedure described in standard EN13432 (September 2000) adjusted as follows :

1. Organic matter content, limit on heavy metals and other hazardous substances



In accordance with EN 13432.

An assessment of the negative effects (ecotoxicity and maximum level of heavy metals and other toxic and hazardous substances) of constituents accounting for less than 0.1% of the dry weight of a material or product does not have to be checked provided the total percentage of these constituents does not exceed 0.5% of the dry weight of this material or product.

2. Biodegradation

Biodegradation shall be tested at ambient temperature (between 20°C and 30°C), in accordance with one of the following standards: ISO 14855, ISO 14851, ISO 14852 or ISO 17556. The temperature must be kept below 30°C for the duration of the test.

Pre-treatment using heat or light shall not be permitted. The test shall last no longer than 12 months. Biodegradation must be at least 90% of the theoretical value of the sample or 90% of the value of a control microcrystalline cellulose sample.

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3. Disintegration

Disintegration shall be tested at ambient temperature, i.e. between 20°C and 30°C.

The disintegrations test must specify the maximum thickness for which the material has been tested and approved. This thickness shall be the maximum thickness for which disintegration is guaranteed.

If the disintegration of the material has already been tested quantitatively at high temperature (EN 13432) in accordance with Standard ISO 16929 (as required for testing approval for industrial composting plants), disintegration may then be determined qualitatively at ambient temperature. In this case, the procedure described in Standard ISO 20200 must be used, while clearly specifying that the test has been conducted at temperatures between 20°C and 30°C. The maximum duration of the test shall be six months and a precise balance of mass shall not be necessary. Visual observations and test reports shall be sufficient.

If disintegration at high temperature has not been determined, disintegration at ambient temperature must be determined in accordance with the procedure laid down by Standard ISO 16929 adapted in the following manner. The temperature must not rise above 30°C at any time during the test, which shall last for six months.

After six months, the compost shall be passed through a sieve with a 2 mm mesh size. Disintegration must then be greater than 90%; this means that at least 10% by weight of the material being tested shall not pass through the sieve with 2 mm mesh size.

4. Compost quality

In accordance with EN 13432

5. IR analysis

An IR analysis (finger print) is carried out (for each component if appropriate) so as to identify the product.

V. **Label and marking**

See General Product Certification Rules : § 5 " Affixing and using the mark "

VI. **Possible extensions of the certification**

- A product or a basic material having previously obtained the **OK Biodegradable SOIL mark** is regarded as qualifying for the **OK Compost HOME** mark, provided there is a satisfactory outcome to the disintegration test (at a low temperature) carried out according to the requirements specified in § IV.B.3.
- An **OK Compost HOME**, granted to a well-known basic material, is valid for a variant of this same material on condition that this variant contains the same and no more constituents as the certified basic material and the ratio between the different constituents does not vary more than 20 % relatively speaking (i.e. the certification of a basic material with a composition of 70% - 20% - 9% - 1% is also valid for a variant with a composition of 70 ± 14% - 20 ± 4% - 9 ± 1.8% - 1 ± 0.2 % for the same components, taking into account that the total is still 100%).
- If the constituents are the same, but the relative ratio between the different components is more than 20%, supplementary tests and examinations have to be carried out to verify the biodegradation and disintegration of this new variant.

If components are used that are different from those used for the certified basic material, an extension of the certified basic material is not possible without additional tests or/and examinations.

- The products are certified up to a certain thickness. For higher thicknesses, supplementary tests or/and examinations have to be carried out.

Comment:

Any change to a certified basic material or product has to be notified to the Vincotte services.

No-one is authorised to feature the **OK Compost HOME** conformity marks on a product unless this is formally certified by Vincotte.